

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (ORIGINAL) A primer set comprising at least two primers that allows a target nucleic acid sequence to be amplified,

wherein a first primer included in the primer set contains, in its 3' end portion, a sequence (Ac') that hybridizes to a sequence (A) located in the 3' end portion of the target nucleic acid sequence, and also contains, on the 5' side of the sequence (Ac'), a sequence (B') that hybridizes to a complementary sequence (Bc) to a sequence (B) that is present on the 5' side with respect to the sequence (A) in the target nucleic acid sequence, and

a second primer included in the primer set contains, in its 3' end portion, a sequence (Cc') that hybridizes to a sequence (C) located in the 3' end portion of a complementary sequence to the target nucleic acid sequence, and also contains, on the 5' side of the sequence (Cc'), a folded sequence (D-Dc') that contains, on the same strand, two nucleic acid sequences that hybridize to each other.
2. (ORIGINAL) The primer set according to claim 1, further comprising a third primer that hybridizes to the target nucleic acid sequence or the complementary sequence thereto,

wherein the third primer does not compete with other primers for hybridization to the target nucleic acid sequence or the complementary sequence thereto.
3. (ORIGINAL) The primer set according to claim 1, wherein in the first primer, when no intervening sequence is present between the sequence (Ac') and the sequence (B'), a ratio (X-Y)/X is in a range of -1.00 to 1.00, where X denotes the number of bases contained in the sequence (Ac') while Y indicates the number of bases contained in a region flanked by the sequence (A) and the sequence (B) in the target nucleic acid

sequence, and when an intervening sequence is present between the sequence (Ac') and the sequence (B') in the primer, a ratio $\{X-(Y-Y')\}/X$ is in a range of -1.00 to 1.00, where X and Y denote the same as described above, and Y' indicates the number of bases contained in the intervening sequence.

4. (ORIGINAL) The primer set according to claim 1, wherein in the second primer, the folded sequence (D-Dc') has a length of 2 to 1000 nucleotides.
5. (ORIGINAL) The primer set according to claim 1, wherein at least one primer included in the primer set has a solid-phase support or a site that can bind to a solid-phase support.
6. (ORIGINAL) The primer set according to claim 5, wherein the solid-phase support is one selected from the group consisting of a water-insoluble organic polymer support, a water-insoluble inorganic polymer support, a synthetic polymer support, a phase transition support, a metal colloid, and a magnetic particle.
7. (ORIGINAL) The primer set according to claim 5, wherein the site that can bind to a solid-phase support is selected from the group consisting of biotin, avidin, streptoavidin, an antigen, an antibody, a ligand, a receptor, a nucleic acid, and a protein.
- 8.-83. (Canceled)